



BREAKING THE SINGLE PARENT POVERTY TRAP

Intersectional insights and promising policies to support single parents.

Concept Note for a Joint Side Event to CSW 68 with BMFSFJ

Organizers: BMFSFJ/Germany, National Council of German Women's Organizations

Date and time: 11th of March, 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM

Location: Conference Room 6, UN General Assembly Building

Webcast: <https://webtv.un.org/en>

Introduction:

Single parent poverty is still a reality for millions of lone mothers and their children around the world. The rate of extreme poverty among divorced or separated women (8 per cent) doubles that of divorced and separated men in low and middle-income countries. Among 40 high and upper middle-income countries, lone mother households have higher rates of poverty across every single country, data shows (UN Women 2020).

In times of high inflation rates, conflict and climate change, income-poor lone mothers more than ever need targeted public policies providing, inter alia, appropriate social transfers and high-quality flexible childcare services, access to education and opportunities for skilling as well as labor market regulation allowing them to access and obtain decent employment. However, debt crises in the Global South and austerity measures in the Global North lead to shrinking budgets. What is more, gender advocates are alarmed by the global anti-gender backlash and its effects on social policies. Accordingly, progressive governments increasingly face an antifeminist discourse stigmatizing lone mothers and questioning public support.

This event will discuss the complex risks, causes and consequences of single parent poverty, with a focus on lone mothers, highlighting best practices and promising policies to prevent and to end poverty. It will highlight intersectional approaches to design programs for and with lone mothers and discuss strategies to implement these policies in a challenging political environment.

Guiding questions:

- What are the causes of single parent poverty, especially of lone mothers? What are particular consequences of lone mother poverty for women in all their diversity, their children and society in general?
- What are promising examples of public policies supporting single parents? And how can we design policies to address causes, reduce risks and prevent single parent poverty?
- How can we move beyond stigma and rally public support for single parents?

Objectives:

- Educate and raise awareness about single parent poverty from an intersectional perspective.
- Explore best practices and promising concepts to fight single parent poverty.
- Bring together relevant perspectives from government, international organizations, academia, and civil society.



Agenda:

Introduction	Moderator
Words of Welcome	Susanne Maier, Board Member, National Council of German Women's Organizations
High-level Segment	
Opening Remarks	H.E. Lisa Paus, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
Opening Remarks	H.E. Sima Bahous (tbc), UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director
Keynote Segment	
Keynote	Prof. Janet C. Gornick, Internationally renowned expert for comparative welfare policies and gender, Director of the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, City University of New York, USA
Panel	
Panel Discussion	H.E. Lisa Paus, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany Prof. Janet C. Gornick, Director, Stone Center at City University of New York, USA Lydia Opiyo, Founder and CEO of Passion to Share Foundation, an NGO for mentoring and economic empowerment of young mothers in Nairobi, Kenya Cecilia Mena Carrera, Representative of ACDemocracia, a women's human rights organization, Ecuador Daniela Jaspers, President of the Association of Single Mothers and Fathers, Germany
Q&A	Questions to panelists
Closing	Moderator

Moderator: Monika Remé, Policy Advisor, National Council of German Women's Organizations